

Abstract of the Invention

5 A polarimeter includes a receiver that is configured to receive a first polarization (P_1) of the signal and to split the first polarization of the signal into the in-phase (I_{P1}) and quadrature (Q_{P1}) components and to receive a second polarization (P_2) of the signal and to split the second polarization of the signal into the in-phase (I_{P2}) and quadrature (Q_{P2}) components. The polarimeter may also include a
10 processor that is configured to receive each of the in-phase and quadrature components ((I_{P1}), (Q_{P1}), (I_{P2}), and (Q_{P2})) of the first and second polarizations and to determine the Stokes polarization vector components (s_0 , s_1 , s_2 , and s_3) of the signal.